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SPAN.MsoHyperlink { COLOR: blue; TEXT-DECORATION: underline; text-decoration: single }
A:visited { COLOR: purple; TEXT-DECORATION: underline; text-decoration: single }
SPAN.MsoHyperlinkFollowed { COLOR: purple; TEXT-DECORATION: underline; text-decoration: single }
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SPAN.MsoHyperlink { COLOR: blue; TEXT-DECORATION: underline; text-decoration: single }
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SPAN.MsoHyperlinkFollowed { COLOR: purple; TEXT-DECORATION: underline; text-decoration: single }
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A New Direction for Our Veterans and Troops

Every day we see the tremendous commitment and sacrifice made by the men and women of our Armed Forces. Our military men and women are among our most precious resources. I am proud of the important legislation Congress passed in the 111th and the 110th Congress in support of Veterans.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1) included key priorities for veterans, such as incentives for business to hire recently discharged, unemployed veterans and the expansion of housing assistance for disabled veterans. In addition, it provided funding to improve aging military hospitals and VA hospitals, and improves claims and benefits processing.

I am also proud to have voted in favor of a Veteran Affairs budget that provides veterans' health care and other services and authorizes Congress to provide the VA medical investments one year in advance to ensure sufficient, timely, and predictable funding.

The 110th Congress passed the GI Bill for the 21st Century, which was signed into law on June 30, 2008. This legislation restores full, four-year college scholarships for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

In addition, the House passed the largest increase in veterans' funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration as part of the fiscal year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill. This legislation included provisions to strengthen quality health care, and focused on providing benefits to those veterans recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information on what the Democratic leadership has done for our veterans and troops in the 111th Congress, click [here](#).

For more about my work on veterans' affairs, [click here.](#)